

# WHERE ZERO WEATHER SPORTS ABOUND



A sleighing party leaving the Mansion House, Poland Spring, Me.

## Call of Frost King Beckons to Northern New York, the White Mountains, Maine and Canada

AMERICAN cities are sports mad this season. The craze for skating which has followed closely upon the passion for dancing, with which the nation has been obsessed during the past three years, has resulted in many sensations. Ice skating rinks atop skyscrapers, skating tees in artificial ice rinks on the stages of theatres and the Hippodrome, rinks adjacent to dancing floors in air castles and skating everywhere is the rule in town, while far from the soot smirched snow of town bob sleigh runs are being constructed with real bob sleighs from Switzerland, toboggan sleighs with toboggans from across the Canadian border, ski jumps with Norwegian skis and all the fashionable fripperies for sport that clever minds of designers can evolve.

From these somewhat exotic and expensive playgrounds of the city to the more primitive sports of those who love wide, open spaces and the sting of the air on mountain tops may be a far cry, but it is one that is heard throughout the land and from all America, there are responses. In every train carries into the great winter playground of New England, New Hampshire's granite hills, pilgrims in search of the sport that seems there, as nowhere else, to give an inimitable zest to outdoor life.

Over the border in Maine, too, the Pine Tree State beckons the lover of winter sports and in the foothills of the White Mountains over an imaginary boundary line between two states there are all sorts of allurements for the person who dares brave zero weather. From northern New York on up to Quebec, in fact, the call of the frost king is being heard and answered by thousands.

The Switzerland of America offers sport less sophisticated, perhaps, than that to be had in the real Switzerland, but none the less enjoyable. In place of the bob sleigh runs at St. Moritz and Davos Platz there are great hills whose shining roads are one, perhaps two, miles long, and the double runner or "traverse" sled with its steel sled runners is hardly less swift in its downward flight than its Swiss cousin. More intricate, too, is the steering, for there is no wheel and the intrepid leader who sits in front takes all sorts of risks in piloting his precious freight to a safe haven at the foot of the icy slope.

The toboggan slides, beloved of Canadians, have been transplanted to the White Mountains, and after a thaw at midday, when the snow freezes into an icy crust, one may take his toboggan out and slide over the fences in the fields and far away, where'er he will.

Skating in the open on lake and pond and artificial rink, with the breath of the pines about one and the sun riding high in a sky of dazzling

blue, has skating atop a skyscraper beaten a mile, and as for skating, there is no finer place this side of Norway and Sweden for this sport. At Berlin, the mill town among the New Hampshire hills, where there is a colony of hardy Norsemen, the American champion ski jumper resides and carries most modestly the honors won last year among a thousand experts at the annual Minnesota skifest. Skiing at Berlin and at Gorham is the most favored of winter sports and is being taken up gradually by other residents outside the Norwegian colony.

Sleighing parties in the White Mountains are delightful affairs, for a great roomy sled is chosen, piled high with fragrant hay, in which the breath of summer still lingers in the dried clover blossoms, and one may drive by moonlight for miles over the crisp, crunching snow to some little inn, where a candy pull, an oyster supper or some other form of refreshment is enjoyed.

But the sport par excellence in the White Mountains, strange as it may seem to the uninitiated, is mountain climbing, and the members of the Appalachian Mountain Club, who make many winter pilgrimages to the White Mountains, have set the pace for this, the kind of White Mountain sports. The mountain tops are swept clean of loose snow by the busy breezes and the hard icy crust remaining, like that of Swiss glaciers, offers a fine climbing surface. With hatchet and alpenstock one may make the ascent of Mount Washington in winter with perfect safety, and if none of the usual routes open in summer may be taken there is always the Mount Washington carriage road, a nine mile ascent from Glen Station, and no one who has not enjoyed the swift descent over the carriage road on a toboggan knows what real sport is.

Bethel, Me.; Gorham and Berlin and the winter headquarters of the A. M. C. at Randolph and Jackson in New Hampshire are favorite rendezvous for the mountain climbers, for Glen is easily accessible from all these points and this winter will see more mountain climbers on the Presidential Range than ever before.

Another favorite climb with Appalachians is up Mount Kearsarge, where many a winter picnic is enjoyed by East Side visitors. Intervale and North Conway attract many parties in winter and many hotels are kept open all the year in Jackson, North Conway and Intervale.

The annual pilgrimage of the girls of LaSalle Seminary at Auburn, Mass., to the Bellevue at Intervale is one of the events of the season and not infrequently seventy-five to a hundred girls arrive for a fortnight's holiday. The Iron Mountain House and Gray's Inn at Jackson, the Randall and Kearsarge Hall at North Conway and the Bellevue and Pendexter Mansions at Intervale, with the Russell Cottages at Kearsarge village, are all open during



Poland Spring is an ideal spot for the ice skaters.



For the lovers of real zero weather.

the winter and the Mount Madison House at Gorham and Bethel Inn at Bethel, Me., attract many sport lovers. The famous Sugar Hill resort, Pockett's, is never closed and some of the best sport in the hills may be enjoyed here with famous winter picnics at Butternut Lodge.

Further north, the Balsams at Dixville Notch attracts many winter guests, and Colebrook and Lancaster too have cozy hotels open all the year. Hunting is enjoyed here during the early season and all winter sports. Plymouth, Littleton, Bethel, where one may secure accommodations during winter; Lishon, Camp-ton, Waterville and many other White Mountain towns afford equally good facilities for sport and there is always mountain climbing to be had. Especially adapted to all sports is the Bethel Inn at Bethel, Me., which is one of the most luxurious of inns, with all the comforts of a city hotel. The Woodstock Inn at Woodstock, Vt., is another inn of the same sort and many families spend the entire winter amid the beautiful pine woods and snow clad hills.

A favorite haunt of snowshoe parties is through the Crawford Notch in winter, and the narrow pass, with its deep drifted road, hugs the mountainside, far below the winding steel rails along the side of Willey and Willard. Another favorite climb with Appalachians is up Mount Kearsarge, where many a winter picnic is enjoyed by East Side visitors. Intervale and North Conway attract many parties in winter and many hotels are kept open all the year in Jackson, North Conway and Intervale.

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larger lakes is a thrilling sport and as for sliding down a mountain road or over the crust of fillmable fields, of a picnic in the forest, where one gathers his own fagots for the blazing fire, where steaks are broiled on sharp sticks and potatoes roasted in the ashes, while the fragrant aroma of coffee arises from a tin pot—well, let those who will grate atop sky scrapers in town—but there are others who will find simpler joys in the great White Hills.

### WINTER SPORTS AT QUEBEC.

QUEBEC, that quaint old French Canadian city, will come into its own as the world's greatest headquarters for winter sport this winter, with St. Moritz and other Swiss resorts inaccessible to winter tourists.

Nowhere in America is there to be found so much in the way of sport in winter as in the wonderful old city, with its mantle of pure white snow, Bobsleighbing with real Swiss bobsleighs, skiing on the Citadel Hill, in the heart of the city, sliding at the Cove Fleets and at the glare ice glaciers at Montmorency Falls, sleighing parties to the Indian village of Lorette, L'Ange Gamelin, where one dines off peridix au choux and other French delicacies, and to the famous Montmorency Falls, where a Kent House, the summer residence of the Duke of Kent, is now a charming clubhouse and winter headquarters of the Appalachian Mountain Club in Canada, are delightful events, and one may reach the unbroken, trackless plains west of Quebec skirting the St. Lawrence on his snowshoe expeditions, but ten minutes run out of town.

The famous toboggan slide on Dufferin terrace overlooking the St. Lawrence River and ending at the very door of the Chateau Frontenac, the great hotel where winter sports lovers converge through the holidays, was opened on December 15, and the new open air skating rink just

west of the Chateau is a novel attraction. The Victoria skating rink and the local curling clubs extend their hospitalities to visiting sportsmen, and some may elect to go up in the Lake St. John country after a caribou, as Canadian game laws allow hunting big game practically all winter.

### GOOD COOKING IN CANADA.

THE epicurean visitor to Canada does well to look a bit into Canadian cookery lore, for the French did not come from France for naught, and while they have necessarily had to adapt their cookery to the climate and in the cold winters live upon very substantial things, with plenty of fat to ward off the chill, there are some delights in a cuisine Canadienne worth looking for.

There is, for instance, the most delightful morsel one can find in a week's journey, that aristocrat of Canadian dishes, peridix au choux, or partridge with cabbage. The plump partridges, fattened with hazel nuts and all sorts of good things, are juicy, white of breast and gamy of flavor, but delicious in themselves. And when stewed in a casserole by a black-eyed French Canadian girl who puts in all sorts of spices and seasonings, several slices of salt pork and plenty of crisp white cabbage—well, there are those who say there is nothing better in all the world than peridix au choux—certainly nothing better in Canada.

Then succe a la creme, which is sold in most Canadian shops, is a delicious confection made from pure, thick sweet cream and maple sugar cooked together until it is creamy and taken from the fire just in the nick of time to harden sufficiently that it may be cut in squares and wrapped in waxed paper. There is a flavor to the maple sugar of Canada, whose emblem is the "Maple Leaf" and whose national song is "The Maple Leaf Forever," that sets it apart from all other maple sugar in the world.

## Revived Interest in Skating in the City Reflected in Increasing Number of Devotees of Skiing, Coast-ing and Snowshoeing Amid Ideal Conditions

IT has been but a comparatively short time that Poland Spring, Me., has been regarded as a winter resort, but during that time its growth in that direction has been something marvelous. The present winter has seen this development reach its climax and throughout the holiday season it has been taxed to its utmost limits. It must be understood that the great summer hotel has never been open for winter guests, but these have been cared for in the Mansion House. Two years ago it became necessary to build still another house for guests and the Lincoln Inn appeared. This most comfortable auxiliary building has eighty suites of rooms, each one of which is supplied with running water, telephone and all other modern conveniences. The present winter has seen even this building taxed to its capacity and the question now facing Hiram Ricker & Sons is, What next?

Chief among the winter attractions of Poland Spring are the various sports requiring snow and ice, and among these every sort and description may be found. The toboggan slide is perhaps the most famous because it requires the most steady nerve and daring. This slide is 1,500 feet long and reaches to the Middle Range Pond with a very swift descent the entire distance. With a half dozen people on the toboggan the narrow roadway is traveled with tremendous speed and the momentum gained is so great that the sled is shot clear across the lake to the other shore, a distance of three-quarters of a mile.

Near by the Mansion House is the skating hill for the children, and rare sport for them it is. A long sled is placed on an inclined platform and after being loaded with children is shot off like a catapult. As it strikes the snow path it has gained an impetus that sends it flying down the hill. Now and then in its flight it swerves around and the occupants are thrown into the deep snow on either side of the roadway. No harm is done and the children thoroughly enjoy this little deviation from the scheduled ride.

Just below the skating hill is the artificial lake used for skating, which, as in New York, is the fashionable sport this winter. This rink is 90 by 100 feet in area and is always kept clear for the skaters. A hydrant is by its side and each night the surface is flooded with water and allowed to freeze. When a snowstorm comes it is scraped before the water is turned on so that the surface is always glare ice.

There are many other sports at Poland Spring, and among them may be mentioned snowshoeing and skiing. Of course snowshoeing proper is always in order, and like every other implement of sport, snow shoes are provided free of charge to the guests. Sleigh riding is another popular amusement and the thirty or more lively horses are always in use when the travelling is good.

And there are plenty of indoor amusements at Poland Spring. In the Ricker Inn is a fine dance hall and each Saturday evening a grand ball is given. The billiard and pool rooms are also in the building and around these tables expert gamblers are frequenty seen.

Of course the candy pulls in the big kitchen of the Mansion House never lose their flavor. These are old fashioned and homelike affairs and once or twice each week the guests assemble for this purpose. Each passing year sees more important improvements at Poland Spring in order to meet the steadily increasing business. A large sum was expended last year in enlarging the buildings and adding new features. Mention has already been made of the new story on the central section of the Mansion House, and this has been done without disturbing the old section of the building. The original house built by Wentworth Ricker, grandfather of the present owners, will always be intact as this is held almost sacred by owners and guests.

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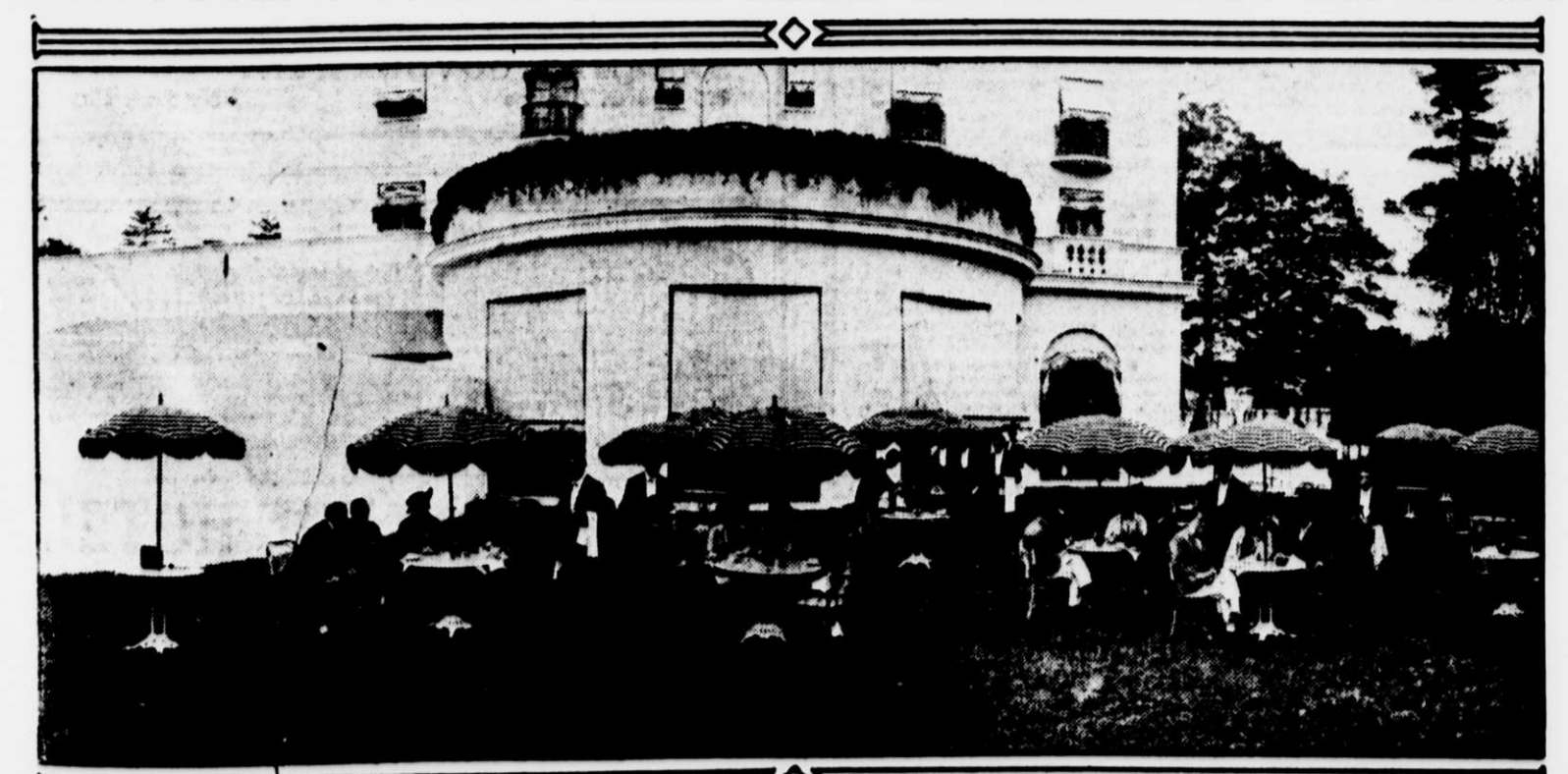
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